



Veteran's Day began as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. Then in 1926, Congress passed a resolution for an annual observance, and Nov. 11 became a national holiday beginning in 1938.

In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11th as **Veterans Day** and called upon Americans everywhere to rededicate themselves to the cause of peace. The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery. At 11 a.m., a color guard, made up of members from each of the military services, renders honors to America's war dead during a tradition-rich ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The President or his representative places a wreath at the Tomb and a bugler sounds "Taps." The balance of the ceremony, including a "Parade of Flags" by numerous Veterans service organizations, takes place inside the Memorial Amphitheater, adjacent to the Tomb.

Montana communities and schools throughout the state also hold ceremonies to pay respect and honor their local veterans. This includes reservation schools, which honor tribal members for their military contributions, using their individual tribal flag and songs for ceremony. Many schools host student interviews with veterans and history projects, as well as other ceremonies and meals honoring their veterans. These activities help students learn about the stories and events and bridges past generations to present.

From the OPI, *Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians*, EU 2 can be linked to these contemporary activities which include, and is not limited to: Tribal languages, cultures, and traditions which are alive and well throughout Indian country. Indigenous languages are still spoken, sacred songs are still sung, and rituals are still performed. It is not important for educators to understand all of the complexities of modern day contemporary American Indian cultures, however, educators should be aware of their existence. They should also understand the ways cultures might influence much of the thinking and practice of American Indians today. These histories and traditions may be private, to be used and understood only by members of that particular tribe. Educators should be aware of this issue when asking students about their histories, ceremonies, and stories.

Suggestions for Veteran's Day in the classroom

- November 11, 2010 Veteran's Day Poster
<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/poster/vetsday10.jpg>
- HISTORY Channel (Take a Veteran to School planning tool <http://www.history.com/topics/take-a-vet>)
- Montana Office of Public Instruction; Indian Education for All Curriculum (Language Arts, Middle School, Model Teaching Unit - Joseph Bruchac's, *Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two*)
<http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/curricsearch.html>
- US Department of Veteran Affairs (History of Veteran's Day, Teacher Guides, Video, etc.)
<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>